

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 03310

EXDIS STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR EUR/LUERS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SCUL, PINT, UR
SUBJECT: RFE/RL OLYMPIC ACCREDITATION

REF: STATE 114513

1. ALEXANDER BUCHAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF RFE/RL, INC., MET WITH WILLI DAUME, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE IOC AND PRESIDENT OF THE FRG NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, JULY 7 TO DISCUSS FURTHER THE ISSUE OF RFE/RL ACCREDITATION AT OLYMPIC GAMES. BUCHAN HAS BRIEFED CONGEN POLOFF ON MEETING, MAKING IT CLEAR THAT BRIEFING WAS INTENDED FOR CONGEN'S INFORMATION ONLY.

2. IN ESSENCE, DAUME TOLD BUCHAN THAT SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED THAT IF THEY RECEIVE ASSURANCES BY APRIL, 1979 - I.E., BEFORE MAY 1979 MEETING OF IOC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - THAT RFE/RL WILL NOT RPT NOT APPLY FOR ACCREDITATION TO 1980 SUMMER GAMES IN MOSCOW, THEY WILL NOT RPT NOT PUSH FOR CHANGE IN IOC RULES WHICH WOULD ACCREDIT ONLY THOSE MEDIA WHICH BROADCAST IN THEIR NATIVE LANGUAGES FROM
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THEIR HOME TERRORITIES.

3. ALTHOUGH HE FINDS IDEA OF GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT ALONG ABOVE LINES FAR LESS THAN IDEAL, BUCHAN SEES IT AS REALISTIC WAY OF FORESTALLING POSSIBLE RULE CHANGE WHICH COULD, UNLESS UNDONE BY SUBSEQUENT RULE CHANGE, PREVENT RFE/RL FROM GIVING LIVE COVERAGE OF ALL FUTURE OLYMPIC

GAMES. BUCHAN IS CONVINCED THAT SOVIETS ARE DETERMINED TO FIND SOME MECHANISM, EVEN IF IT IS REFUSAL TO ISSUE VISAS TO A RFE/RL CORRESPONDENT, TO KEEP RFE/RL FROM COVERING MOSCOW GAMES LIVE.

4. BUCHAN HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT BIB CHAIRMAN GRONOUSKI AND RFE/RL, INC. BOARD CHAIRMAN HAYES ARE INCLINED TO REGARD SUCH A GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT AS THE BEST, ALBEIT A LESS THAN PERFECT, OPTION FOR RFE/RL AT THIS JUNCTURE. BUCHAN BELIEVES THAT GRONOUSKI INTENDS TO DISCUSS ACCREDITATION ISSUE FURTHER WITH DEPARTMENT IN COMING DAYS.

5. ALTHOUGH MAY, 1979 IS A NUMBER OF MONTHS AWAY, CONGEN HOPES DEPARTMENT AND BIB ARE ALREADY IN PROCESS OF FORMULATING U.S. POSITION AND STRATEGY ON ACCREDITATION ISSUE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT DON MILLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, AND HIS COLLEAGUES BE KEPT ABREAST OF OUR THINKING AND PLANNING. IT IS ALSO DESIRABLE THAT CONGEN BE IN POSITION TO RENDER APPROPRIATE - BUT INFORMAL - ADVICE ABOUT USG INTENTIONS TO RFE/RL MANAGEMENT.

6. SUBJECT OF RFE/RL ACCREDITATION CONTINUES TO GENERATE INTEREST IN FRG PRESS. JULY 6 ISSUE OF "DIE WELT," FOR EXAMPLE, CARRIES STORY REPORTING THAT DAUME FAVORS COMPROMISE OF TYPE SET FORTH IN PARA TWO. PREDICTABLY, "DIE WELT" TAKES JAUNDICED VIEW OF COMPROMISE. (COPIES CONFIDENTIAL

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OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF "DIE WELT" PIECE POUCHED TO EUR/EE AND EUR/CE.)

7. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS AND OTHER INQUIRIES, RFE/RL PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN IS TAKING POSITION THAT: (A) RFE/RL IS AWARE OF NO RPT NO IOC RULE CHANGE TO DATE; AND (B) AT PROPER TIME RFE/RL WILL SEE TO IT THAT RADIOS' LISTENERS GET THE BEST POSSIBLE IMPRESSIONS OF 1980 MOSCOW GAMES.

8. RFE/RL MANAGEMENT HAS JUST ADVISED CONGEN THAT HANS HUGO KLEIN, CDU/CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTY, HAS JUST PUT THREE QUESTIONS TO GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH "DIE WELT" STORY: (A) IS IT TRUE THAT THE STATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DENIED ACCREDITATION BY A DECISION OF PRESS AND LEGAL COMMITTEE OF IOC, TAKEN WITH U.S. CONCURRENCE?; (B) IS IT TRUE THAT DAUME CAN COUNT ON SUPPORT OF FRG IN HIS EFFORTS TO GET RFE/RL TO RENOUNCE ACCREDITATION VOLUNTARILY?; AND (C) HOW DOES FRG VIEW THIS ISSUE IN VIEW OF MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM DANGERS AND PRECEDENTS WHICH COULD AFFECT DEUTSCHE WELLE AND DEUTSCHLANDFUNK? BETTS

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